Page 2 Serial No. 10/768,769 Response to Official Action

## In the Claims

- 1. (currently amended) A method for treating or preventing acne comprising applying to skin affected by, or susceptible to, acne, a composition containing consisting of:
- a) an effective amount from about 0.1% to about 10% by weight of an alkanolamine of the formula



wherein X, Y and Z are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_3$  alkyl groups,  $C_2$ - $C_4$  alkanol group, wherein at least one of X, Y, or Z is a  $C_2$ - $C_4$  alkanol group bearing at least one hydroxyl group and optionally at least one carboxyl group;

- b) from about 0.01% to about 6% by weight tyrosine; and
- c) an effective amount from about 0.5% to about 15% by weight of a sulfur ingredient selected from the group consisting of lipoic acid, glutathione, sulfur, a combination of sulfur and resorcinol, a combination of sulfur and resorcinol monoacetate, sulfacetamide, and mixtures thereof; and
- d) a dermatologically acceptable carrier, wherein the composition acts upon the skin to treat or prevent acne.
- 2. (cancelled)
- 3. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the alkanolamine is selected from the group consisting of ethylaminoethanol, methylaminoethanol, dimethylaminoethanol, isopropanolamine, triethanolamine, isopropanoldimethylamine, ethylethanolamine, 2-butanolamine, choline, serine, and mixtures thereof, and the sulfur ingredient is lipoic acid, glutathione, or a mixture of lipoic acid and glutathione.

Page 3

Serial No. 10/768,769

Response to Official Action

4. (original) A method according to claim 3 wherein the alkanolamine is dimethylaminoethanol.

- 5. (original) A method according to claim 4 wherein the composition contains from about 0.03% to about 5% by weight dimethylaminoethanol, from about 0.03% to about 5% by weight tyrosine, and from about 1% to about 10% by weight lipoic acid, glutathione, or a mixture of lipoic acid and glutathione.
- 6. (original) A method according to claim 5 wherein the composition contains from about 1% to about 3% by weight dimethylaminoethanol, from about 0.2% to about 0.5% tyrosine, and from about 2% to about 10% lipoic acid, glutathione, or a mixture of lipoic acid and glutathione.
- 7. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein a conventional acne medication containing an effective amount of an active anti-acne ingredient selected from the group consisting of an acid, an alcohol, a retinoid, a peroxide, and an antibiotic, is also applied to affected skin areas.
- 8. (original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the conventional medication is applied to affected skin areas following administration of the alkanolamine composition.
- 9. (original) A method according to claim 8 wherein the active ingredient in the conventional acne medication is salicylic acid.
- 10. (original) A method according to claim 8 wherein the active ingredient in the conventional acne medication is tretinoin.

Page 4 Serial No. 10/768,769

Response to Official Action

- 11. (original) A method according to claim 8 wherein the active ingredient in the conventional acne medication is benzoyl peroxide.
- 12. (original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the conventional medication is applied to affected skin areas before administration of the alkanolamine composition.
- 13. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the composition further comprises contains at least one adjunct ingredient selected from the group consisting an  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acid, a fatty acid ester of ascorbic acid, and mixtures of any of these.
- 14. (currently amended) A method according to claim 13 wherein the composition comprises contains glycolic acid.
- 15. (currently amended) A method according to claim 13 wherein the composition comprises contains ascorbyl palmitate.